

**Amendment to the Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~detecting~~ determining the antithrombin III (AT) content in a sample that may contain one or more pharmaceutical compounds that inhibit thrombin ~~an interfering factor, the interfering factor being a drug~~, the method comprising:

(a) providing a reaction mixture by contacting the sample with a first reagent R1 comprising ~~an excess of AT binding partner thrombin~~, under conditions wherein the AT binding partner ~~thrombin~~ essentially does not interact with AT but ~~a portion of the AT binding partner~~ interacts with the one or more pharmaceutical compounds that inhibit thrombin ~~interfering factor such that the interfering factor is no longer available to interfere with the AT and a first free fraction of the AT binding partner remains~~,

(b) adding to the reaction mixture a second reagent R2 ~~for a first determination of and determining the amount of said first free fraction of the AT binding partner thrombin~~,

(c) changing the conditions of the reaction mixture by adding to the reaction mixture a third reagent R3 such that ~~at least a portion of said first free fraction of the AT binding partner thrombin~~ interacts with AT, ~~such that a second free fraction of the AT binding partner remains~~,

(d) conducting a second determination of the amount of ~~second free fraction of the AT binding partner thrombin~~ in the reaction mixture, wherein the determination comprises using the reagent R2, and

(e) determining the AT content in the sample from the difference between the first and second determinations of ~~the first and second free fractions of the AT binding partner thrombin~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the AT binding partner is factor Xa.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the second reagent R2 comprises a chromogenic substrate which is a peptide substrate for thrombin.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the second reagent R2 comprises an antibody for determining the free AT binding partner.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the third reagent R3 comprises an accelerator of the interaction between AT and the ~~AT binding partner~~ thrombin.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the accelerator is heparin.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first reagent R1 further comprises an antagonist for an accelerator of the interaction between AT and the ~~AT binding partner~~ thrombin.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the first reagent R1 comprises polybrene.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the third reagent R3 further comprises an additional ~~AT binding partner~~ thrombin.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the determination of the ~~AT binding partner~~ thrombin comprises a kinetic determination.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)